

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

Notes on the Origin of Species—Review of the Development Theory.

Prof. Swallow delivered a lecture recently, in Portland, on the origin of the species, from which we take the following, as reported in the New York Times:

Prof. Swallow began with the statement that all species are homogeneous, and believed in the integrity of species; that certain organic beings are alike in their essential characteristics, that each has a well-defined place in the economy of the world, and that each serves to maintain its identity indefinitely. At the same time it is freely admitted that individuals may be somewhat changed by various causes, and that such changes may be transmitted; that marked variations may be produced; and when the causes producing them can be traced, they are easily explained, and there follows a release of the original condition. At the beginning of the present century, Leibnitz, St. Hildegard, a few other persons presented a theory of development, holding that inorganic matter is developed into organisms of the lower forms, and that these are successively built up into higher forms, until man is produced. Hence all species are developed by natural laws, without the intervention of any external power.

Others defended the immutability of species with distinguished ability and success. Some years ago a new interest was given to this question by Mr. Darwin, of Cambridge, who accounted for the origin of species by variations produced in various ways, but more particularly by natural selection.

Mr. Darwin's theory of the effects of natural selection. He admits the creation of primordial beings, thus avoiding very widely the weakest points of Lamarck, and the assumption of a divine Being in the unexplored region along the boundaries of the organic and the inorganic kingdoms, which put out of the discussion. Others venture to claim the title of authorship of the production of organic beings by natural laws. Dr. Bastian, Dr. Child, Prof. Haeckel, and others, speak of the theory that the evidence of evolution comes to us, which comes from inorganic matter up to man. Hence the old zoological maxim, *Omnis ex omni ex omnibus*, or "all comes from all," is compelled to stand in its place, *Nihil ex omnibus*.

If these views are correct we must accept the theory of Comte's "Positive Philosophy." That is, the complete development of the human mind. Mr. Darwin himself has well said that there is scarcely a subject upon which he wishes to sustain his theories, but that the evidence of evolution comes to us, which comes from inorganic matter up to man.

Hence the old zoological maxim, *Omnis ex omni ex omnibus*, or "all comes from all," is compelled to stand in its place, *Nihil ex omnibus*.

The theory of evolution, however, is not yet fully worked out. It is still in its infancy, and the student of evolution is compelled to accept it as a hypothesis, and to work it out.

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